

AUGUST 2007

Assemblymember Mullin's Child Passenger Restraint Safety Bill Passes Assembly

BY JUAN CISNEROS
CAPITOL STAFF

Children's safety in California has been a top priority for Assemblymember Gene Mullin throughout his term in the California State Assembly. From setting new standards for improved pool safety for California's children last year to this year's legislation, Assembly Bill 881, to safeguard our most vulnerable youngsters who suffer serious injury and fatality in automobile accidents. AB 881 extends the law to require children to ride in booster seats in the back until their 8th birthday and defines the law for infants to ride facing backward until they are at least one year old and at least 20 pounds. The requirements in AB 881 are in line with recommendations of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which in 2002 embarked on a ten-year, national booster seat campaign. This bill will provide parents with the most accurate safety practices that meet federal recommendations to protect these vulnerable 6 and 7 year olds. A study, with eight years of crash data, by State Farm Insurance Companies and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, shows that children in states that have passed booster seat laws were much more likely to be properly restrained for their age and size at the time of a crash than children in states that have no laws mandating booster seat use.

The bill has been backed by indisputable data collected by Partners of Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) which conducted the first comprehensive study devoted exclusively to pediatric motor vehicle injury,



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State farm Insurance Companies. These studies proved that using a booster seat with a seat belt instead of a seat belt alone reduces a child's risk of injury in a crash by 59%. Mandating booster seats through booster seat laws is a means to educating the public of the studies that have become the federal standard and is very effective in increasing booster seat use.

Current law uses both a weight and age requirement whereas AB 881 would eliminate the weight requirement thus making it that much less confusing to the public and easier to enforce.

Enactment and enforcement of this bill will also make available to California federal SAFETEA-LU section 2011 funds which serve as an incentive to get more states to update and strengthen their

booster seat laws to the federal standard. Gene Mullin said, "California has a responsibility to keep our children safe and the fact that 25 other states have surpassed our existing law is a real eye opener and I will do what it takes to bring this state up to speed."

AB 881 has passed through the assembly with bipartisan support, has made its way to the Senate floor where it is eligible to be heard next week. The Governor's veto message of last session's version of this bill focused on the need for public education. AB 881 is distinctly different from last year's version by allowing a 6 month delay in implementation for greater public education.

Having addressed the Governor's concerns, it is with great hope that the AB 881 gets signed into law this year.

ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULE

The tentative Assembly session schedule for August 28 – 31, 2007 is as follows:

August 28 Check-in Session

August 29 Check-in Session

August 30 Floor Session at 1:00 p.m.*

August 31 Floor Session at 8:30 a.m.*

* The schedule is subject to change



Bay Bridge Will Be Closed During Labor Day Weekend

Caltrans has announced that the Bay Bridge will be closed in both directions over Labor Day Weekend, from 8pm Friday, August 31 to 5am Tuesday, September 4. The Bay Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project headed by Caltrans, will be conducting seismic safety work on a section of the bridge. The Yerba Buena Island Viaduct will be replaced over Labor Day Weekend to ensure that it is brought up to current earthquake standards. Also during the closure, Caltrans will be adding new FasTrak-only lanes at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza and performing other maintenance and construction work.

Plan ahead by taking alternate bridges

- Golden Gate Bridge
- San Mateo-Hayward Bridge
- Dumbarton Bridge
- Richmond-San Rafael Bridge

Make use of the public transportation

BART will be running an overnight service at the following stations through 1:00 am on Tuesday, September 4. Regular BART service will resume at 4:00 am that morning:

- Bay Fair
- Berkeley
- Coliseum/Oakland Airport
- Concord
- Daly City
- Dublin/Pleasanton
- El Cerrito del Norte
- Embarcadero
- MacArthur
- Powell
- SFO
- Walnut Creek
- 12th Street
- 24th Street

For more information, please visit the Bay Bridge website at www.baybridgeinfo.org.

Assemblymember Mullin Honors Children's Art Competition Winners



Photo by Sarah Phelps

From left to right: Sergey Moreno, Assemblymember Gene Mullin, Alan Wu, Sarah Chu, and James Wang

BY SARAH PHELPS
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

This spring, Assemblymember Mullin held his Third Annual Children's Art Competition for elementary and middle school students in the 19th Assembly District. The intent of the competition is to create a fun activity, which encourages students to enthusiastically explore the essence of art. The theme this year was "Imagine..." We received 135 entries this year, and chose the first, second and third place winners in the elementary and intermediate categories. Entries are judged based on creativity and artistic ability, and choosing the winners is an extremely difficult task due to all of the wonderful submissions. This year's winners were honored by Assemblymember Mullin at an ice cream social for their friends and families on August 10 in the District Office, and presented with Certificates of Rec-

ognition from the California State Assembly. The winners' artwork will be displayed in the State Capitol throughout the rest of the year.

This year's Elementary Category winners are:

First Place- James Wang, 4th Grade, Brewer Island Elementary School, Foster City

Second Place- Alan Wu, 1st Grade, Brewer Island Elementary School, Foster City

Third Place- Sarah Chu, 5th Grade, Alpha Beacon Christian School, San Mateo

This year's Intermediate Category winners are:

First Place- Sergey Moreno, 7th Grade, Alpha Beacon Christian School, San Mateo

Second Place- Lindsay Montgomery, 6th Grade, Crocker Middle School, Hillsborough

Third Place- Anna Velasquez, 8th Grade, Lipman Middle School, Brisbane

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South San Francisco to Celebrate Day in the Park 2007

As a long time resident of South San Francisco, Day in the Park has become the most anticipated event of the year. Day in the Park will feature over 200 booths sponsored by local businesses, city and county agencies, and vendors. Each year starts with the popular pancake breakfast kick-off, held at the Municipal Services building on 33 Arroyo Drive, between 8 am and 10 am. Participants are encouraged to arrive early as this is always a well attended event.

There will be plenty of activities for children to participate including a jumping castle, face painting, and a petting zoo. On the main stage, gifted young people from the commu-

nity will entertain the crowd with their singing and dancing talents for the entire duration of the festivities. For car enthusiasts, there will be a special car show on the west side of the park. Furthermore, the South San Francisco Fire and Police Department will give tips on safety and crime prevention.

Day in the Park will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2007 from 10 am–4 pm at Orange Memorial Park. Free parking and a shuttle will be offered at South San Francisco High School. For more information, please contact my office or the South San Francisco Recreation and Community Services Department at (650) 829-3800.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Committees*

Standing Committees: Education (Chair) • Budget • Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance • Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration • Housing and Community Development • Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security • Water Parks and Wildlife

Select Committee: Select Committee on Biotechnology (Chair)



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For scheduling inquiries, email virginia.kroger@asm.ca.gov for District Events or alisia.nantze@asm.ca.gov for Capitol Events. Include the date, time, and purpose of the event.

